Mr May (H. Clapp Jr) April 30-1847.

Leicester, Massachusetts,

To J. B. Estlin Esq. April 30. 1847.

My dear Sir,

I have ~~thus~~ just completed a letter to yourself, & a note to Miss Carpenter, to go by tomorrow's Steamship, and in 2 weeks (I trust) they will be in your hands. I must also now get ready ~~for~~ the little parcel of books, to go by May 5th packet; for I go to Brooklyn, Connecticut, tomorrow, whence I shall probably not return for several days.

I shall not be able to reply today to your inquiries, ~~relative~~ preparatory to a 2d edition of your "Brief Notice"; but I will endeavour to attend to it soon. You may derive some help from the tract (herewith sent) by Parker Pillsbury. Let me call your especial attention to it. It is a developement of the rottenness and corruption of American religion and the American religious sects which astounded even me, prepared as I was, & long have been, to ~~hear~~ believe almost anything of them, however bad. Alas! alas!! what a grievous downfall of hopes, what a destruction of faith in the professions of the ~~pagan~~ Church, so called. I hope it will have a wide circulation in England.

As to Henry Clapp Jr., he is worse

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than I thought him to be. You ~~may~~ can see, for yourself, his doublefacedness in eulogizing Garrison at one time as about to have a reputation second only to Washington's, and at other doing all he can to blacken and destroy that reputation. As to the cruelty of Garrison's conduct to N. P. Rogers, there has been a deal of sickening cant about it, mainly confined to those who had got tired of the AntiSlavery warfare, and who had not obtained from it the notice, the position, & the rewards they had anticipated. Such, emphatically, I believe to be true of Henry Clapp. Jr. His assertion that Mr. Garrison never advocates the Dissolution of the Union, in the United States, is an unqualified falsehood, unsustained by the shadow of a proof; as I am sure you, who read the Liberator, must know. He never attends an AntiSlavery meeting, and never suffers a Liberator to appear, without announcing it, and ~~usually~~ in all the meetings largely advocating it. H. C. jr.'s assertion that the "Liberty party" fully accord in the sentiment of "No union with Slaveholders" is equally & thoroughly false. Let him be called upon to show when & where any prominent Liberty party man, or any organ of the party, has put forth any such doctrine. Let him be asked if Alvan Stewart, a chief among the chiefest of that party, has not proclaimed, "We go for the Union, Slavery in or Slavery out. Texas in or Texas out."

Let him say if many Liberty party men have not eulogised and helped the Slaveholders' War against Mexico. The proof of this has been given in the N. A. S. Standard, within 2 or 3 months past. — As to which party suffers most "odium", the Old Abolitionists, or the Liberty party, this is very much a matter of opinion. Clapp's assertion that the latter suffer the most of "public odium, especially at the polls", is extremely puerile & nonsensical, as the Old Abolitionists, with few exceptions, do not go to the polls at all, believing that to swear themselves, or to appoint others ~~to~~ as their agents who will swear, to support the United States Constitution, is what no honest Abolitionist, with the common understanding of the Constitution, can do. — The fact remains that the Old Abolitionists have ever held ~~of~~ the Standard of Antislavery the farthest forward, commending it to all parties, and exposing the sins and short-comings of all, and encouraging every indication of honest antislavery sentiment & effort, in whatever sect or party manifested. Clapp is not worthy to be trusted, or to be associated with honorable men. In this opinion I am now established. — He is a smooth-tongued, specious fellow, and I fear has somewhat imposed on ~~my~~ that excellent man, James Haughton (from whom I lately had a letter), but who was not ~~to~~ convinced he says by his talk, or E. Burritt's either, that Liberty Party was the really effective instrumentality for the Slave's redemption.

You ~~say~~ think there must be something peculiar in the Antislavery movement here or else in our countrymen, compared with yours; for you say such quarrels, recriminations, &c. among those who have been friends, do not appear among you, as among us, in the public journals. What say you to the Howitt & Saunders quarrel? — to be sure, they had never been friends, & H. was clearly entrapp but it is what Sir Lucius O'Trigger would call "a very pretty quarrel". — Then the Antislave Movement, in very truth, is a peculiar cause. Nothing else, in this day, I think, is equal to it, or like it, in requiring its adherents to be ready to lay all — reputation, property, & even life — on the altar. It applies a most rigid & painf test to those who claim to be its friends. To the most the test is intolerably severe; they cannot take up such a cross. They fall back among the world; and many who, for a time, ran well, have faltered and ingloriously retreated. Nowhere else can a man so well understand the meaning of the words, "But he who shall endu unto the end, the same shall be saved" —; this enduring to the end includes the whole, — all effort, all self-denial, all sacrifice. Clapp, I am sorry but I do not hesitate to say it, is one of the deserters. —

I shall hope to write again soon in regard to your wishes for the "Brief Notice"; but I am expecting a very busy month of it, in May.

Respectfully & affectionately Yours

Samuel May.

You are at liberty to show this to H. Clapp jr. or any of his friends.

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